

Improvements to Recreational Boating
On
Lake Barkley – Project Development Team

Subcommittee:

Natural Resource Management

Original Goals and Objectives:

1. Perform more aquatic vegetation management
2. Increase fish habitats to provide fishing opportunities.
3. Allocate more of Lake Barkley as "Limited Development – Open to Docks"
4. Extend walkway of private docks to allow for extended use into the fall and winter months.

Subcommittee Members:

Paul Rister – KDFWR
John Taylor – USFWS
Bob Dyer – Dock Builder
Jimmy Campbell – Lyon Co. Judge Exec.
Maurice Simpson – USACE
Kenny Darnell – TVA
Tammy Warner – Realtor

Accomplishments:

1. In regards to Objective #1 "aquatic vegetation management". During the late 1980's the region experienced drought conditions. These conditions increased the retention time of water in Lake Barkley. The increase retention time allowed for more sediment to fall out of suspension, producing increase water clarity in Lake Barkley. This increase water clarity, allowed for several species of aquatic vegetation (pondweed, naiad, coontail and milfoil) to become established throughout the lake. During this time the USCOE a policy to treat, chemically, areas around the lake where this vegetation became a hazard to boat navigation, around boat ramps and dock, and swimming areas. By the mid 1990's the return to normal rainfall amounts, reduced the retention time of water in the reservoir, therefore decreasing water clarity. Over time, with reduce water clarity the majority of the aquatic vegetation disappeared. Since this time, the USCOE has gotten out of the aquatic vegetation spraying business on Lake Barkley. This objective was mentioned, to raise question that if the region does experience another drought there may be a need for aquatic vegetation management in navigable waters. Although, it is not likely that the Corps would have funds to do any further aquatic plant control activities unless plants directly affected the power plant.
2. Paul Rister with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) addressed Objective #2 "fish habitat". The KDFWR has a very active fish habitat program on Lake

Barkley. From 1 April 2005 to 1 March 2007 the following fish habitat work was completed on Lake Barkley:

- Re-brushed deep-water sites with 90 units of brush.
- Built 30 shallow water sites with brush on mud flats.
- Built 16 new deep-water sites using 134 units of PVC "O-No Hang Fish Attractor".
- Built 3 new deep-water sites with 18 units of Artificial Cover Model CTR 3"
- Fish habitat donated by J&J Habitat.
- Refurbished 142 stake beds and built 2 new sites.

Each of these fish habitat sites is marked with a "fish attractor" buoy if in deep water, or a white pole when in shallow water.

It is planned to have each of these sites marked by GPS coordinates and place on a map which will be distributed to the public during 2007.

3. To answer Objective #3 "allowing more docks to be built around the lake" was deemed to be answered by the USCOE policy written in the Shoreline Management Plan. This policy outlines the procedures needed to be completed for requesting the construction of a boat dock around Lake Barkley.

4. It was discussed between the Lake Access and Infrastructure, and the Natural Resource Management subcommittees to move Objective #4 "extending walkways of private docks" from this committee to Lake Access and Infrastructure.

Pending Actions:

Investigating cypress tree and button ball bushes procurement and facilities to grow trees in pots to age 3. Committee will investigate the history of cypress trees plantings around Kentucky Lake by Tennessee Valley Authority and Land Between the Lakes biologist.

1. Action Item: Accept responsibility to continue investigating feasibility of planting cypress trees to mark shallow areas of the lake.
2. Investigate private clubs, school clubs or chapters that could be interested in raising and planting cypress trees.

Future Considerations: